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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,183	04/26/2001	Takeshi Kunimasa	046601-5092	7263
9629	7590	05/05/2004	EXAMINER	
MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP 1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004			KASSA, YOSEF	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2625	5	
DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/842,183	KUNIMASA ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
YOSEF KASSA	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/26/2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakiuchi et al (U.S. Patent 6,687,017), and further in view of Natsudaira (U.S. Patent 5,740,514).

With regard to claim 1, Kakiuchi et al discloses at least one recognition part (see Fig. 1, item 201) that is provided corresponding to the rendering object, i.e., counterfeit image data, and recognizes whether a specific image is included or not in the image data (see col. 9, lines 30-40); and a determination part that determines based upon the result of recognition by one or plural recognition units whether the specific image is included or not in the image data (see col. 9, lines 54-64).

While Kakiuchi et al discloses an object of counterfeit image data, he is silent about the type of the rendering object. However, at the same field of endeavor Natsudaira teaches this feature (see col. 10, lines 21-27). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to incorporate the teaching of Natsudaira illegal copying preventive process into Kakiuchi et al system. The motivation for doing so is to provide illegal copying preventive image pattern formed of characters or marks, which are taken as collation reference.

Claim 2 is similarly analyzed as claim 1. As to the additional limitation of synthesizes another type of rendering object is taught by Natsudaira, that is, an image pattern combining process (see col. 10, lines 38-51). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to incorporate the teaching of Natsudaira illegal copying preventive process into Kakiuchi et al system. The motivation for doing so is to illegal copying preventive image pattern formed of characters or marks, which are taken as collation reference.

Claims 3 and 4 are similarly analyzed as claim 2.

With regard to claim 5, Kakiuchi et al discloses an output image data generation part that generates output image data in the image data and outputs it (see Fig. 1 item 202), the determination part instructs the output image data generation part to stop the output of the output image data when the determination part determines that the possibility of including the specific image in the image data is high (see col. 10, lines 25-32).

Claims 6, 8 and 11 are similarly analyzed as claim 1.

Claims 7 and 9 are similarly analyzed as claim 2.

Claim 10 is similarly analyzed as claim 5.

Other Prior Art Cited

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. (5,982,956) to Lahmi discloses secure method for duplicating sensitive documents.

US Patent No. (6,116,510) to Nishino discloses code reading and recording apparatus.

US Patent No. (5,568,550) to Ur discloses method and system for identifying documents...

US Patent No. (5,565,962) to Yoshimoto discloses method of and apparatus for preventing forgery of specific image

US Patent No. (6,188,787) to Ohmai et al discloses image recognition method na device...

US Patent No. (5,216,724) to Suzuki et al discloses apparatus for image reading or processing.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)

872-9306 for regular communication and (703) 872-9306 for after Final
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number
is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa

04/30/04.



BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600